

Upper-Level Spelling Inventory (USI)

The Upper-Level Spelling Inventory (USI) can be used in upper elementary, middle, high school, and postsecondary classrooms. The 31 words are ordered by difficulty to sample features of the within word pattern to derivational relations spelling stages. With normally achieving students, you can administer the entire list, but you may stop when students misspell more than eight words and are experiencing noticeable frustration. If any students misspell five of the first eight words, use the ESI to more accurately identify within word pattern features that need instruction.

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| 1. switch | We can switch television channels with a remote control. <i>switch</i> |
| 2. smudge | There was a smudge on the mirror from her fingertips. <i>smudge</i> |
| 3. trapped | He was trapped in the elevator when the electricity went off. <i>trapped</i> |
| 4. scrape | The fall caused her to scrape her knee. <i>scrape</i> |
| 5. knotted | The knotted rope would not come undone. <i>knotted</i> |
| 6. shaving | He didn't start shaving with a razor until 11th grade. <i>shaving</i> |
| 7. squirt | Don't let the ketchup squirt out of the bottle too fast. <i>squirt</i> |
| 8. pounce | My cat likes to pounce on her toy mouse. <i>pounce</i> |
| 9. scratches | We had to paint over the scratches on the car. <i>scratches</i> |
| 10. crater | The crater of the volcano was filled with bubbling lava. <i>crater</i> |
| 11. sailor | When he was young, he wanted to go to sea as a sailor. <i>sailor</i> |
| 12. village | My Granddad lived in a small seaside village. <i>village</i> |
| 13. disloyal | Traitors are disloyal to their country. <i>disloyal</i> |
| 14. tunnel | The rockslide closed the tunnel through the mountain. <i>tunnel</i> |
| 15. humor | You need a sense of humor to understand his jokes. <i>humor</i> |
| 16. confidence | With each winning game, the team's confidence grew. <i>confidence</i> |
| 17. fortunate | The driver was fortunate to have snow tires on that winter day. <i>fortunate</i> |
| 18. visible | The singer on the stage was visible to everyone. <i>visible</i> |
| 19. circumference | The length of the equator is equal to the circumference of the earth. <i>circumference</i> |
| 20. civilization | We studied the ancient Mayan civilization last year. <i>civilization</i> |
| 21. monarchy | A monarchy is headed by a king or a queen. <i>monarchy</i> |
| 22. dominance | The dominance of the Yankee's baseball team lasted for several years. <i>dominance</i> |
| 23. correspond | Many students correspond through e-mail. <i>correspond</i> |
| 24. illiterate | It is hard to get a job if you are illiterate. <i>illiterate</i> |
| 25. emphasize | I want to emphasize the importance of trying your best. <i>emphasize</i> |
| 26. opposition | The coach said the opposition would give us a tough game. <i>opposition</i> |
| 27. chlorine | My eyes were burning from the chlorine in the swimming pool. <i>chlorine</i> |
| 28. commotion | The audience heard the commotion backstage. <i>commotion</i> |
| 29. medicinal | Cough drops are to be taken for medicinal purposes only. <i>medicinal</i> |
| 30. irresponsible | It is irresponsible not to wear a seat belt. <i>irresponsible</i> |
| 31. succession | The firecrackers went off in rapid succession. <i>succession</i> |